

State and local officials celebrate major construction milestones with completion of West Fargo's Main Avenue project

Four miles of roadway were reconstructed in three phases to support increasing traffic numbers and community safety

WEST FARGO, ND – (October 12, 2016) – Today the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) Director Grant Levi along with West Fargo Mayor Rich Mattern and other state and local government leaders joined to celebrate the completion of West Fargo's major reconstruction project along Main Avenue. Together, the group unveiled the completed project at a community ribbon cutting event and discussed the long path of improving four miles of the roadway. Reconstruction efforts began in 2009 and finished this fall, with the 2015 and 2016 project work marking the third and final phase of the reconstruction plan for Main Ave. Project costs of the seven-year plan totaled nearly \$61 million.

"The NDDOT appreciates the patience of the traveling public and businesses along the corridor as it has taken some time to complete all three phases of reconstruction of Main Avenue," said Grant Levi, NDDOT Director. "We have finished a project that will enhance traffic safety, corridor aesthetics, and we have a roadway that will last a long time and require minimal maintenance."

West Fargo Mayor Rich Mattern says the completion of this final phase marks a major milestone in the collaborative efforts to better the quality of life for West Fargo drivers, residents and businesses, as well as area visitors. "We started planning for this improvement project more than ten years ago and since then we've seen our city grow tremendously. Now this updated stretch meets urban standards and should increase economic growth by providing direct business access. We are pleased to share the widespread benefits of Main Avenue with the patient community," he said.

All three phases of the project completely reconstructed Main Ave. between Interstate 94 (I-94) and 45th Street, converting the old rural sections into a safer infrastructure system. A 2001 planning study pointed out safety and infrastructure issues due to substantial city growth, and identified specific project needs. As a result, plans for the reconstruction project have been active since 2005 with phases occurring in 2009, 2012 and 2015/2016. The final phase focused on the western portion of Main Ave. between the I-94 Interchange and Morrison Street, where the roadway, Sheyenne Bridge and all utilities were reconstructed or updated.

Overall improvements from the complete Main Ave. project phases include:

- Additional lanes to improve traffic flow
- New driving surface throughout the entire project
- Larger intersection areas for increased traffic counts

- Removal of frontage road system that often caused conflict and congestion
- Direct business access from Main Ave. with added driveways
- Improved drainage and underground utilities
- New boulevards, lighting, traffic signals, shared use paths and signage

The West Fargo Main Avenue Reconstruction project demonstrates the impact of federal, state and city partnerships to improve roads across the state of North Dakota.

